

**21 OCTOBER 1999**

**Personnel**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction implements AFPD 36-20, *Accession of Air Force Military Personnel*, and defines the requirements for graduation from the USAF Academy as established by the USAF Academy Board. It applies to USAFA cadets, faculty, and staff. An (I) indicates revisions from the previous edition.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

Clarification of residency requirements (paragraph 3.1.)

**1. Eligibility.** Cadets will attend the USAF Academy not less than 4 academic years to be eligible for graduation.

**2. Graduation Requirements:**

2.1. To graduate from the USAF Academy and be awarded a bachelor of science degree, a cadet must demonstrate an aptitude for commissioned service and leadership, be satisfactory in conduct, be proficient in physical education, and meet all military training and academic requirements. To fulfill the military training requirements, a cadet must satisfactorily complete the professional development curriculum and all summer training requirements. To fulfill the academic requirements, a cadet must satisfactorily complete the core curriculum (or equivalent) and an academic major or the Bachelor of Science Program. Academically, cadets must meet a minimum standard of a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00, have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 in the core curriculum, and have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 in their major or in the Bachelor of Science Program. Additionally, all cadets must meet a minimum standard of a cumulative military performance average (MPA) of 2.00.

2.2. Cadets who satisfactorily complete the requirements for graduation with the bachelor of science degree as described above are awarded a diploma consisting of stainless steel shield on a wood backing and a paper diploma with the following words inscribed:

"By virtue Of The Authority Vested In The Secretary Of The Air Force, \_\_\_\_\_ Having Completed The Required Course Of Study As A Member Of The Graduating Class Has Been Judged Worthy To Receive The Degree Of Bachelor Of Science In \_\_\_\_\_ And Is Admitted To That Degree With All The Rights, Privileges And Honors Pertaining Thereto. In Witness Whereof We Have Set Our Hands And Fixed The Seal Of The United States Air Force Academy This \_\_\_\_\_ Day Of \_\_\_\_\_ In The Year Of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred And Ninety- \_\_\_\_\_."

This diploma is signed by HQ USAFA/CC, the Commandant of Cadets (Commander, 34th Training Wing (34 TRW/CC)), and the Dean of the Faculty (HQ USAFA/DF)

2.3. Students from foreign countries are designated International Cadets. International Cadets for whom English is a second language will be awarded validation credit for their native language. International Cadets must fulfill all other Academy graduation requirements to earn a bachelor of science degree. Those who do not are awarded a certificate of completion, which will state that they attended the USAF Academy for 4 years.

### 3. Special Cases:

3.1. Normally, the academic program is completed by cadets in residence. However, under certain conditions, cadets may graduate with up to 24 semester hours less in residence than the number of course its prescribed in the *USAF Academy Catalog* or the *Curriculum Handbook*. When a cadet receives equivalent academic credits at the USAF Academy through transfer or validation, a maximum of 24 semester hours may be applied toward the residency requirement for graduation. A cadet must have at least eight semesters in residence at USAFA. A semester spent in USAFA-sponsored exchange programs will also count as a semester in residence. However, beginning with the class of 1999, a cadet must take at least 136 semester hours at USAFA (or in USAFA-sponsored exchange programs) to satisfy residence requirements.

3.2. The USAF Academy Board may make exceptions to the procedures and requirements stated above. Normally, exceptions are considered by the USAF Academy Board upon recommendation of the Academic Review Committee.

**4. References.** The academic, physical education, and military training curricula are completely described in the *USAF Academy Catalog* and the *Curriculum Handbook*. Determination of proficiency in aptitude for commissioned service is outlined in AFI 36-2020, *Disenrollment of United States Air Force Academy Cadets*, and USAFAI 36-164, *Review and Disposition of Deficient Cadets*. Weight standards and deficiencies in conduct are defined in current Air Force Cadet Wing instructions (AFI 40-502, 1 Jul 99, *The Weight and Body Fat Management Program*).

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Dean of the Faculty